

VINTON MASSIE.

JUNE 24, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HANSBROUGH, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 605.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 605) granting a pension to Vinton Massie, have examined the same and report:

The report from the records of the War Department shows that this man was enrolled in Company G, Nineteenth Iowa Infantry, on August 7, 1862, and was mustered out with company July 10, 1865.

July 7, 1890, the soldier filed a claim under the Act of June 27, 1890, alleging loss of right eye and impaired vision of left eye, rheumatism, chronic diarrhea and results, and injury to back. This claim was allowed March 17, 1891, for disease of eyes and rectum and rheumatism, and he has been pensioned therefor at \$12 per month from date of filing.

His examination January 7, 1891, rates him six-eighteenths for disease of eyes, four-eighteenths for diarrhea and disease of rectum, and two-eighteenths for rheumatism.

In an affidavit filed in the Pension Office November 21, 1896, the claimant describes his condition as follows:

I am in receipt of a pension of \$12 per month, granted for disease of eyes and rectum and rheumatism; that since the granting of said pension I have entirely lost the use of my right eye, and, on account of the diseased condition of the eye, was compelled to have it removed; that I can not clearly state the cause or give the name of the disease affecting the eye; that the disease was of gradual growth for a great many years, and eventually became so very painful that I could not walk around, and threatened the loss of the other eye and perhaps my life, and, in consequence, was by the physicians removed; that since said removal I am constantly affected with vertigo, sometimes more than others, but increasing much of the time so I can not go out or walk around, and I am thereby totally unfitted for any kind of labor, either physical or mental.

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John Hale and J. D. Barr testify as follows:

We have been acquainted with Vinton Massie, the pensioner above named, ever since before his enlistment, and know that his representations above made are true, as we are near neighbors to him and have been for all of said time.

Soldier does not claim that his disability is in any respect due to his army service. He is now 75 years of age, unable to earn a livelihood, and in destitute circumstances.

Your committee recommend the passage of a substitute bill, as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Vinton Massie, late private, Company G, Nineteenth Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and pay him a pension at the rate of \$20 per month in lieu of that he is now receiving.

Also amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to Vinton Massie."

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